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Franz Kafka, Where Are You?

CPYRGHT

Act I: A bill is introduced by Sen. Ervin (D-N.C.) to prohibit any federal agency from asking any employee or job applicant about his sex life, his religion, his family relationships, in the course of lie-detector or psychiatric tests.

Act II: The Senate Judiciary Committee amends the bill to authorize the CIA and National Security Agency to ask such questions in cases where the national security is clearly at stake. The committee then reports the bill to the Senate.

Act III: Through officials "whose identity could not be learned," the CIA "quietly" asks the Judiciary Committee "to hear its private objections" to the bill now reported.

Twice during committee consideration of the bill the CIA had been invited to testify, and had declined.

Act IV, dialogue by Sen. Ervin: "They apparently don't want any law applied to them. They seem to think they ought not to be accountable for anything."